

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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GENERAL OSMANI

The man who inspired us during the 1971 Liberation War

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BENAZIR BHUTTO MURDER

Pakistan court declares Musharraf fugitive, acquits five suspects

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The Daily Star WISHES ITS READERS, PATRONS, ADVERTISERS AND WELL-WISHERS A VERY HAPPY EID.

HOLIDAY
The Daily Star offices will remain closed for three days from today for Eid-ul-Azha holidays. There will be no issue of the newspaper on Sept 2, 3 and 4.

NOTICE
Due to Eid holidays, Showbiz (Sept 2) and Lifestyle (Sept 5) will not be published.

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Exodus of refugees turns fatal

23 die as Rohingya boats sink in the Bay, Naf; 400 Hindus also take shelter in Bangladesh

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

Law enforcers rescued 19 bodies of Rohingya people, who had been fleeing violence in Myanmar, from the Bay of Bengal after the ill-equipped boats carrying them capsized yesterday.

With this, the total death toll of the Rohingyas from boat disaster stood at 23. Four others drowned as another boat sank in the Naf River Tuesday night, local authorities say.

Of those rescued yesterday, 10 were children and nine women. One woman was aged around 60, while others were between 35 and 45.

The children, seven of them girls and two boys, were under four, said Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jahid Hossain Siddiqui.

The boats sank near the west beach of Subrang union of Shah Pori Dweep in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, said Mohammad Main Uddin, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Coast Guard and Bangladesh Police in a combined operation rescued the bodies early yesterday after Subrang Union Parishad Member Nurul Amin informed them about the accident.

Nurul Amin said one of the boats capsized around 1:00am and the other around 7:00am. He added these were small boats carrying people way beyond their capacity.

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PHOTO: PINAKI ROY



Kader with his mother on his back near Naikhyangchhari border on Wednesday. A Rohingya family, left, in the rain and some of the Hindu women and children, right, from Rakhine near Kutupalong camp yesterday.



A rough road to refuge

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT from Naikhyangchhari

It was around noon on Wednesday.

Fleeing violence at their home in Rakhine State, a group of Rohingyas was slipping through the Rezu Aamtali border in Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari with whatever they could carry, some even with livestock.

All of a sudden, it started to rain and the refugees, except for one man, hurried along the hilly road. He was clearly struggling to keep pace with the others.

As that man crossed the border and reached the Ghumdhum point, these correspondents found that he was actually carrying his elderly mother on his back.

Barefooted, the son and the mother looked completely exhausted and scared. Their clothes were crumpled, untidy and slashed with mud.

On being offered some biscuits, the man,

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Tigers enjoy calm before storm

STAR SPORT DESK

The Bangladesh national cricket players were in relaxed mood yesterday, a day after their historic win over Australia in the first Test in Mirpur and with three days to go when the mercury rises again with the second Test in Chittagong's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Most of them -- including Mirpur heroes Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim -- had gone home to make the most of the one day they have to spend time with their families before they head off to Chittagong today. They had earned their makeshift Eid-ul-Adha respite as they defeated Australia by 20 runs within four days, meaning that they had the fifth day to relax.

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Going home

Pressure on highways mounting as Muslims prepare to celebrate Eid

STAR REPORT

Like many others, eight-year-old Purbasha was waiting at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday around noon holding her father's hand.

Every time a bus stopped near the terminal, she would point at the bus and ask her father, "Is it our bus, baba?"

Her father, Shajahan Kabir, kept telling her it was not their turn yet.

Purbasha was excited about going to her grandfather's home in Jessore. But the long wait for bus seemed to have dampened her spirits.

Their bus was scheduled to leave at 3:00pm. Shajahan's family went to the terminal about two hours early fearing they would be delayed in traffic following the morning downpour.

"We thought the traffic would be terrible. So we left early, but we did not face too much traffic. Having reached here, the people at the bus counter said the bus would depart on time," Shajahan said.

"I'm excited but my daughter has become a little restless," he said flashing a smile.

Happy faces were everywhere at the bus terminals in the capital.

Thousands of holidaymakers left the capital yesterday to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their loved ones at village home.

PHOTOS ON PAGE 20

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ACC begins probe into hajj agency anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has launched a probe into the alleged irregularities and misappropriation of money of 98 pilgrims by 18 hajj agencies.

ACC officials said its Deputy Director Zulfikar Ali has been tasked with the enquiry.

Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of ACC, said the graft watchdog took the initiative on the basis of a report run by Daily Prothom Alo on Wednesday.

The ACC on Wednesday night carried out drives at the offices of Pan Bright and Golden Travels, two among the 18 hajj agencies, in Dhaka and

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NEWS ANALYSIS

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Sinha's seminal judgments

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The wave of attacks on Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha questioning his mental fitness and legal expertise while also expressing doubts that he is not the author of his judgment on the 16th constitutional amendment may encourage supporters of war criminals to raise questions about the verdicts in war crimes cases that the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court led by Justice Sinha delivered, legal experts and political analysts fear.

The CJ has presided over the Appellate Division benches that disposed of appeals and review petitions filed by Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed, Mir Quasem Ali, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Salauddin Qader Chowdhury against their conviction for war crimes.

Their appeals and review petitions were dismissed and they were executed on different dates for committing war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

Justice Sinha has himself written the verdicts both on the appeals and review petitions of Salauddin Quader and Mir Quasem. As CJ, he has written the verdicts on Kamaruzzaman's appeal and Nizami's review petitions.

He was also a member of the Appellate Division bench that disposed of the government appeal, seeking death penalty for Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah as well as his review petition against the apex court verdict.

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DENIGRATING CJ

Who said what

Seldom, if ever, a chief justice of the Supreme Court of an independent and sovereign country, has been so brutally attacked and verbally abused for delivering a judgment on a vital issue like the power to remove Supreme Court judges.

Judgments can be and are often criticised from legal angles and in a language suitable for an enlightened discussion on the issues.

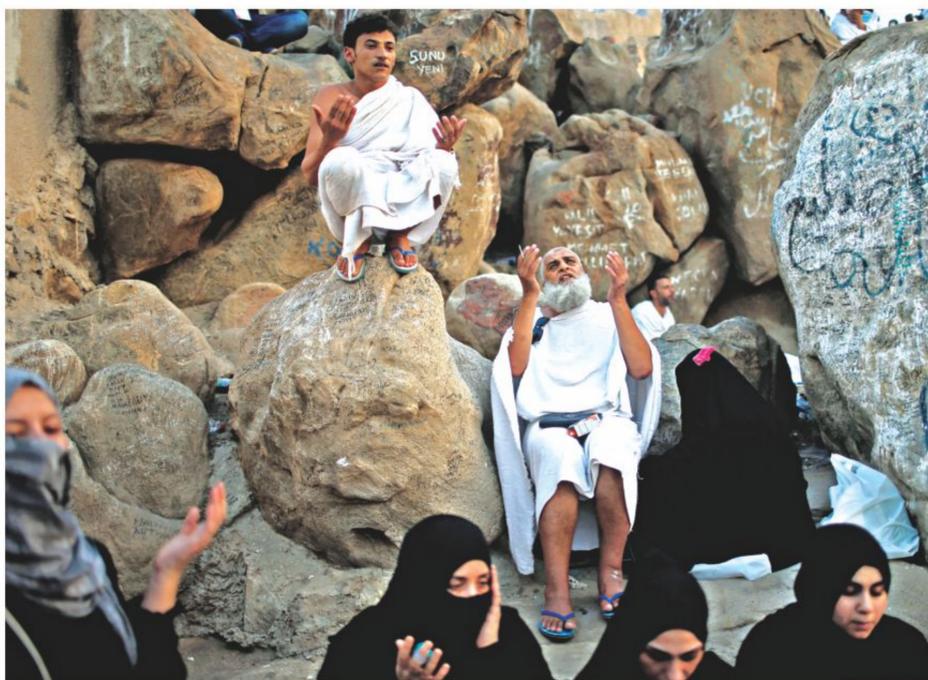
But the criticisms of Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha were at best based on out of context and distorted version of what he said. On other instances they reflected a total lack of understanding of the issues concerned. There were also criticisms based on fictitious grounds.

The language used against him was most unfortunate and in some cases pedestrian and vulgar. No respectable person, leave alone the highest judge of a country should be subjected to such verbal abuse.

But unfortunately he was, and more unfortunately by the top political leadership of the country. Critics also include some retired judges oblivious of the impact of their remarks on the institution they have served.

We have put together a sample of 'who said what' against Chief Justice Sinha and leave it to our readers to judge how appropriate they were and how they affected the image of Bangladesh and its highest judiciary.

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Pilgrims gather on Mount Mercy on the plains of Arafat outside the holy city of Makkah yesterday during the annual hajj.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pilgrims throng Mt Arafat for peak of hajj

AFP, Mount Arafat

Their palms facing the sky, around two million Muslims yesterday gathered on Saudi Arabia's Mount Arafat for the highlight of the hajj pilgrimage, one of the world's largest annual gatherings.

With temperatures pushing 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) under the desert sun, the faithful climbed the hill east of Makkah where Muslims believe the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) gave his last sermon some 14 centuries ago.

The second day of the hajj -- a five-day pilgrimage which all Muslims must perform at least once in their lifetime if physically and financially able -- is

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Advertisement



Mr. Adam Tamizi Haque, Managing Director of A. T. Haque Limited contributing to the relief fund of our Honorable Prime Minister for flood victims.

Let's Stand with Humanity...

